RESEARCH ABSTRACT

Title of Project: Charcoal-smoke pollution and risk of respiratory infections.

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ABSTRACT: In the space below, please provide a descriptive summary of your proposed research project.

The purpose of this study is to assess the effect of indoor charcoal-smoke pollution on acute respiratory infections (ARI) in children.

The specific aims of the study are: 1) To assess whether children less than two years old exposed to indoor charcoal-smoke have an increased risk of acute lower respiratory infections (LRI) and acute upper respiratory infections (URI); 2) To evaluate dose-response relationships; 3) To evaluate the relationship between exposure and ARI severity; and 4) To explore the association between ARI and previous episodes of ARI.

The study will be concurrent prospective. Exposed and non-exposed cohorts will be drawn from the Santo Domingo's children population. This population has a high incidence of ARI, a large proportion of exposed children, and low mobility. The study sample consists of 200 children under two years old in each group. The follow-up will last one year. Data on exposure will be gathered by interview and measurements of indoor respirable particle concentration. Data on ARI will be also obtained by examination of the child and interview of the child's mother every two weeks.

The study will provide information on the impact of indoor charcoal-smoke pollution in LRI and URI among children. This information may be useful in selecting preventive strategies for ARI.

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